Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Process for the production of a conjugate from a polynucleotide and a polysaccharide comprising the steps:

   a) ~~provision of an aldonic acid of the polysaccharide or of a derivative thereof;~~

   ~~b) reaction of the~~ reacting an aldonic acid of said polysaccharide with ~~an alcohol derivative, preferably~~ a carbonate derivative of an alcohol~~,~~ in a dry aprotic polar solvent to form an aldonic acid ester, ~~preferably to an activated aldonic acid ester;~~ and

   ~~c)~~ b) ~~reaction of the~~ reacting said aldonic acid ester with the polynucleotide, wherein the polynucleotide ~~exhibits a functional~~ comprises an amino group~~,~~

   ~~characterised in that the reaction of the aldonic acid with the alcohol derivative in step b) takes place in a dry aprotic polar solvent~~.

2. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1, characterised in that the solvent is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of dimethylsulphoxide, dimethylformamide and dimethylacetamide.

3. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the aldonic acid ester is purified and is then used in step ~~c)~~ b).

4. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the reaction charge from step ~~b)~~ a) is used with the aldonic acid ester directly in step ~~c)~~ b).

5. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 4~~, characterised in that step ~~c)~~ b) is carried out at a pH range of 7 to 9~~, preferably 7.5 to 9 and more preferably 8.0 and 8.8.~~

6. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 5, characterised in that step ~~c)~~ b) is carried out at a pH of approximately 8.4.

7. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 6~~, characterised in that the molar ratio of aldonic acid to the carbonate derivative of an alcohol ~~derivative~~ is approximately 0.9 to 1.1~~, preferably approximately 1~~.

8. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 7~~, characterised in that the alcohol is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of N-hydroxy-succinimide, sulphonated N-hydroxy-succinimide, phenol derivatives and N-hydroxy-benzotriazole.

9. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 8~~, characterised in that the polysaccharide is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of dextran, hydroxyethyl starch, hydroxypropyl starch and branched starch fractions.

10. (Original) Process according to claim 9, characterised in that the polysaccharide is hydroxyethyl starch.

11. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 10, characterised in that the hydroxyethyl starch exhibits a weight-averaged mean molecular weight of approximately 3,000 to 100,000 Dalton~~, preferably of approximately 5,000 to 60,000~~.

12. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 10 ~~or 11~~, characterised in that the hydroxyethyl starch exhibits a number average of the mean molecular weight of approximately 2,000 to 50,000 Dalton.

13. (Original) Process according to one of claims 10 to 12, characterised in that the hydroxyethyl starch exhibits a ratio of weight-averaged molecular weight to number average of the mean molecular weight of approximately 1.05 to 1.20.

14. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 10 ~~to 13~~, characterised in that the hydroxyethyl starch exhibits a molar substitution of 0.1 to 0.8~~, preferably of 0.4 to 0.7~~.

15. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 10 ~~to 14~~, characterised in that the hydroxyethyl starch exhibits a substitution sample expressed as the C2/C6 ratio of approximately 2 to 12~~, preferably of approximately 3 to 10~~.

16. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 15~~, characterised in that the polynucleotide is an aptamer or a Spiegelmer ~~a functional nucleic acid~~.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 17~~, characterised in that the polynucleotide exhibits a molecular weight of 300 to 50,000 Da~~, preferably 4,000 to 25,000 Da and more preferably 7,000 to 16,000 Da~~.

19. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 16~~, characterised in that the ~~functional~~ amino group is a primary or secondary amino group~~, preferably a primary amino group~~.

20. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 19~~, characterised in that the ~~functional~~ amino group is bound to a terminal phosphate of the polynucleotide.

21. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 20, characterised in that the ~~functional~~ amino group is bound to the phosphate group via a linker.

22. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 21~~, characterised in that the ~~functional~~ amino group is a 5-aminohexyl group.

23. (Cancelled)